

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05495 01 OF 02 312004Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 EPG-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 /097 W
-----312032Z 010202 /70

R 311617Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRUSSELS 05495

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:PINT,BE
SUBJECT: PARTY CONGRESSES RATIFY PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 5242

SUMMARY: APPROVAL BY PARTY CONGRESSES OF TINDEMANS'PROGRAM OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05495 01 OF 02 312004Z

GOVERNMENT CLEARS THE WAY FOR INSTALLATION
LATER THIS WEEK OF A FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT
COMPOSED OF SOCIAL CHRISTIANS,SOCIALISTS,BRUSSELS
FRANCOPHONES(FDF)AND FLEMISH REGIONALISTS (VU).THE
PRIME MINISTER'S REGIONALIZATION BLUEPRINT LEAVES SOME
DISCONTENT IN BOTH LINGUISTIC CAMPS.NEW GOVERNMENT'S
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY GUIDELINES REFLECT SOME

SOCIALIST INPUT INTO A BASICALLY SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PROGRAM.
BELGIUM'S COMMITMENT TO NATO IS STRONGLY REAFFIRMED.
END SUMMARY.

1.THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN,SOCIALIST,BRUSSELS FRANCOPHONE
(FDF)AND FLEMISH REGIONALIST (VU)PARTIES,MEETING IN
CONGRESSES OVER THE WEEKEND OF MAY 27-29,ENCOUNTERED
SIGNIFICANT DISSENT,BUT FINALLY APPROVED THE PROGRAM OF
GOVERNMENT INITIALED BY THEIR PARTY LEADERS MAY 24 (REFTEL).
LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC WAS VOLKSUNIE,WITH ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS
APPROVING.AMONG THOSE OPPOSED WAS VU SENATOR LODE CLAES
WHO TOLD REPORTS HE PLANNED TO ORGANIZE A NEW FLEMISH PARTY
TO OPPOSE THE REGIONALIZATION ACCORD.DISSENT DERIVED MAINLY
FROM THE "COMMUNITY PACT," WHICH COMBINES A
COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE LIMITS OF
BRUSSELS WITH A LONG-RANGE SCHEME FOR THE DEFINITIVE
REORGANIZATION OF BELGIUM INTO A FEDERAL STATE.PRIME
MINISTER TINDEMANS'ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY AS WELL AS
THOSE SECTIONS OF THE PROGRAM SETTING FORTH FOREIGN AND
DEFENSE POLICY HAD FAIRLY EASY SAILING.

2.NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW CABINET BEGAN OVER THE WEEKEND
WITH TINDEMANS AUTHORITATIVELY REPORTED TO BE PLANNING
TO ANNOUNCE THE CABINET LIST JUNE 1 AND TO PRESENT HIS NEW
MINISTRY TO PARLIAMENT JUNE 2.FOLLOWING IS A
SUMMARY OF THE KEY POLICY POSITIONS OF THE SECOND
TINDEMANS'GOVERNMENT.

3.REGIONALIZATION-BRUSSELS: THE BRUSSELS SOLUTION
AVOIDED ENLARGEMENT OF CAPITAL BEYOND THE PRESENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05495 01 OF 02 312004Z

19 COMMUNES,AS DEMANDED BY FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY.
INSTED,FRANCOPHONES RESIDENT IN SIX PERIPHERAL
COMMUNES ADJOINING BRUSSELS PROPER ARE GUARANTEED THE
SAME LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AS FLEMINGS RESIDENT
IN BRUSSELS.AND FRANCOPHONES RESIDENT IN SEVEN OTHER
ADJACENT COMMUNES ARE ENTITLED TO REGISTER IN ONE OF
THE 19 BRUSSELS COMMUNES,WHERE THEY WILL HAVE RIGHTS
AND DUTIES AS IF THEY WERE ACTUALLY RESIDENT THERE.
THOUGH RELIEVED THAT FLANDERS LOST NO TERRITORY TO
FRANCOPHONE BRUSSELS,SOME FLEMINGS FEEL THAT TOO HIGH
A PRICE WAS PAID IN PERPETUATING AND EXTENDING FRANCOPHONE
RIGHTS IN FLEMISH TERRITORY,AND IN ABANDONING RIGID
FLEMISH PARITY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CAPITAL.

4.REGIONALIZATION- BLUEPRINT OF THE NEW FEDERAL
BELGIUM:THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S COMPLEX RE-STRUCTURING OF THE
BELGIAN STATE PROVIDES FOR ONE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT,THREE
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS(FLANDERS,BRUSSELS,WALLONIA)AND
TWO CULTURAL " COMMUNITIES" (FLEMING AND FRANCOPHONE).EACH

OF THESE GOVERNING ENTITIES IS ENDOWED WITH ITS OWN
ASSEMBLY AND " EXECUTIVE," AND EACH IS EMPOWERED TO LEGISLATE
IN ITS AREA OF COMPETENCE.THE DIVISION OF POWERS IS
AS FOLLOWS:

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05495 02 OF 02 312012Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 EPG-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 /097 W
-----312037Z 010336 /70

R 311617Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9991

INFO RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1198

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BRUSSELS 05495/2

--NATIONAL GOVERNMENT - EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY,NATONAL ECONOMY AND
FINANCE,INTERNAL SECURITY,JUSTICE PUBLIC WORKS
ANS SOCIAL SECURITY.

-- REGIONAL - REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,HOUSING
URBAN EVELOPMENT,ENVIRONMENT,DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES,PUBLIC INDUSTRIAL INITIATIVES,WATER AND
LAND POLICY (WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO NATONAL JURISDICTION).

--COMMUNITY - CULTURAL AFFAIRS,HEALTH CARE,HOSPITALS,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05495 02 OF 02 312012Z

SOCIAL SERVICES, PROTECTION OF YOUTH AND OTHER
"PERSONALIZED SERVICES."

EACH MEMBER OF THE REGIONAL LEGISLATURES WILL ALSO SIT IN
THE NATIONAL SENATE AND IN HIS APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY
COUNCIL. MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE TO DEFINE PRECISE
JURISDICTIONS AND TO INSURE THAT BELGIUM WILL RETAIN THE
ESSENTIAL MINIMUM OF POLITICAL COHERENCE.

5. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY: FULL EMPLOYMENT IS THE TOP
ECONOMIC PRIORITY. THE PROMISED MEASURES ARE TO: PROLONG
SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE ADVANCE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE
REDUCE THE WORK WEEK LIGHTEN THE TAX AND SOCIAL SECURITY
CONTRIBUTION LOAD ON EMPLOYERS ENCOURAGE PART-TIME
WORK RESTRICT OVERTIME BAN MOONLIGHTING DEVELOP PUBLIC
SERVICE EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR CREATE JOBS THROUGH
PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL POLICY. THE
GOVERNMENT IS PLEDGED TO STIMULATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT
AND STEP UP PUBLIC INVESTMENT. IT PROMISES CLOSER GOVERNMENT
CONTROL OF THE BANKING AND ENERGY SECTOR, GOVERNMENT
PARTICIPATION IN GAS AND ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION, ENACTMENT
OF MEASURES TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE BY MULTINATIONAL
FIRMS WITH THE (OECD) "CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT," ASSISTANCE TO
SMALL AND MIDDLE-SIZED INDUSTRIES, AND ASSISTANCE TO VIABLE
INDUSTRIES IN TEMPORARY DIFFICULTIES. ON FISCAL POLICY
THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROMISES NO NEW TAXES, NO CUTBACK IN
FAMILY ALLOWANCES, NO CHANGE IN SYSTEM OF WAGE INDEXATION,
AND DEVELOPMENT OF A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO REFORM PUBLIC
FINANCE PLUS THE REFORM OF THE EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEM. THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO COVER A PROSPECTIVE 1977
BUDGET DEFICIT (PROBABLY ABOUT BF 50 BILLION) THROUGH BORROWING
AND LIMIT IT SOMEWHAT BY A FURTHER
CRACKDOWN ON TAX EVASION. ON SOCIAL
POLICY IT PROMISES PRIORITY ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST
DISADVANTAGED, INCREASED BENEFITS FOR THE HANDICAPPED,
HIGHER MINIMA FOR PENSION AND WELFARE PAYMENTS, AND AN
ANNUAL LUMP SUM PAYMENT TO SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05495 02 OF 02 312012Z

OFFSET PRICE INFLATION IN THE PRECEDING YEAR.

6. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: BELGIUM WILL PARTICIPATE IN
DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BASED ON
THREE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS CORRESPONDING TO THE THREE
NEW REGIONS. THIRTEEN FLEMINGS AND ELEVEN FRANCOPHONES
WILL REPRESENT BELGIUM. THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO MAKE

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE BODY.
BELGIAN ALLEGIANCE TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS STRONGLY
REAFFIRMED,BUT THE NEED TO EXTEND THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION
OF THE ALLIANCE IS STRESSED.BELGIUM WILL MAKE THE
PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AN ELEMENT OF ITS INTERNATIONAL
POLICY.IT FAVORS CREATION OF A COMMON FUND FOR THE
STABILIZATION OF RAW MATERIAL PRICES.BELGIUM WILL
INCREASE ITS EFFORT TO REACH A FOREIGN AID LEVEL OF
0.7 PERCENT OF GNP/ZAIRE,RUANDA AND BURUNDI,ALL FORMER COLONIES,
WILL BE FAVORED RECIPIENTS.

7.DEFENSE POLICY:BELGIAN PARTICIPATON IN THE NATO
COLLECTIVE DEFENSE SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE.THE BUDGETARY

EFFECTS OF MILITARY SPENDING WILL BE CAREFULLY MONITORED.
MILITARY SERVICE FOR DRAFTEES TO BE CUT TO SIX MONTHS.
RENNER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, COALITION GOVERNMENT, SOCIALISM, NEGOTIATIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE05495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770193-0758
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977054/aaaaacxu.tel
Line Count: 241
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6e5cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 5242
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2453693
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARTY CONGRESSES RATIFY PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6e5cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009